ICGI Comparative Genomics & Bioinformatics Workgroup Co-Chair Candidate

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I am a professor of Bioinformatics at Washington State University, with a research focus on developing online database resources and tools to enable genomics, genetics and breeding research in cotton, tree fruit, berries and legumes. Educated in Scotland, I have a B.Sc. in Science and Management, a M.S in Information Management and Ph.D. in Bioscience and Biotechnology. My research background, prior to starting a postdoctoral position at Clemson University, included assessment and modelling of the fate of pesticides in soils, biological control of a weeds using a fungal pathogen, and development of scientific databases.

I have been involved with bioinformatics analysis of cotton data and tool development for 18 years. As a postdoctoral researcher at Clemson University, I received funding from Cotton Incorporated to initiate development of the Cotton Marker Database and was involved in comparative genomics analysis of many of the early discovery and resource papers in cotton research.

I am the principal investigator of CottonGen (www.cottongen.org), the well-established community database for cotton, and home to ICGI resources. We are now at the point where, as a community, we must identify a solution for the long-term sustainability of CottonGen. This will include identifying what new data, analysis, and tools are most important to enable cotton research and how this can be supported financially over the long term. If elected to serve as a co-chair on the Comparative Genomics & Bioinformatics Workgroup, my priority will be to ascertain the needs of the community for these resources and develop and implement a plan to deliver these resources through CottonGen. Thank you.